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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER

TUESDAY.....MARCH 19, 1907

The Rev. Crafts Incident

The Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts incident in the Senate Friday afternoon is really a very important matter for this Territory, or may be. As Senator W. O. Smith in his communication to The Star, published yesterday, pointed out, Rev. Crafts, if his statements regarding the increase of the use of opium among the people of these islands, had not been challenged and refuted, could have said, wherever he goes, that he had been in Hawaii himself and had made an investigation on the ground, and had had a conference on the matter with a committee of the Hawaiian Senate. Such a statement, otherwise unqualified, would have given to any statements he might make on the subject an importance and an authority that they otherwise would not have had. And because of the Rev. Crafts' prominence in reform movements, and the fact that in a considerable degree he can reach the public and the sources of public opinion, might have resulted in creating a widespread public opinion in America on this subject, wholly erroneous, and the spring of ill-devised legislation for this Territory.

It is therefore not too much to say that the Senators present, and particularly Senator Smith did a very great service to the Territory when they challenged the statements made by Rev. Crafts and produced the testimony of senators from every one of the Islands to show that he had been misinformed and was in error.

Whether the Rev. Crafts will still reassert what the senators challenged and produced evidence to disprove, or not, remains to be seen. It is hardly to be expected that he will, unless he shall be carried away by the ardor of his zeal for reform to believe the worse rather than the better. But in any event, the community's attention has been called to the matter. It has been warned of the danger. And the means of refutation have been made more available—very much more available—than if what he had been informed, and believed, and repeated, had not been challenged and disproven in an authoritative way.

The incident was an important one. It was important that our own people should have been informed regarding it. The senators who took part in the matter did a distinct service to the Territory.

Chillingworth And The Dam

Senator Chillingworth seems to have come in for censure in some quarters because as chairman of the joint committee of the two houses to investigate the Nuanu Dam, he has not pre-judged and condemned both the dam and everyone connected with it. If the real purpose of the investigation is to get at the truth of the matter, this is hardly a just or a fair criticism. The attitude of the committee and of its members ought to be a judicial attitude, that of seeking the truth, and this seems to have been the attitude. The questions involved are most of them technical questions of engineering. These are not questions which laymen may not understand, nor of which they may not very properly form judgments on which proper legislative action may be taken. But it is not likely that laymen will understand these problems or form correct judgments concerning them if they start out with the assumption that everything is wrong and everybody at fault.

The committee has sent for Engineer Schuyler who is expected here very shortly. He has been sent for to be the adviser in technical matters of the committee, to indicate to them the lines along which inquiries and investigation may be wisely directed. In short his relation to this committee is to be something of the same relation that Charles Hughes, now Governor Hughes of New York, bore to the Insurance Investigating Committee of the New York Legislature. Mr. Schuyler, familiar with dam building, and with the engineering problems involved, will put his knowledge and skill at the service of the committee, and enable it to get at the real facts, instead of floundering around with the best of motives, but with no definite idea of the facts to get at or how to get at them.

The committee has held a number of meetings, all of which have been open to the public. From the evidence taken in these it has been made clear that the work has not been carried on by the contractor, either as rapidly as it was supposed his contract called for it to be, or as rapidly as it ought to have been. Apparently there has been some influence behind him, either his financial backers, or some silent partner interested with him in the contract, which has kept the work from progressing as it should, or in accordance with the judgment and wishes of the Public Works Department. The committee so far has seemed unable to find out why this is. It is to be hoped that with the arrival of Engineer Schuyler, it will be enabled to find out why it is. But meanwhile any other than a judicial attitude would be likely, not only not to aid in getting at the fundamental facts and placing the blame where it belongs, but might result in enabling the real parties at fault to shift the blame from themselves to innocent parties.

Consuls And Language

The new regulations designed to improve the consular service; to bring into it the men of the right kind of qualifications and to sift out of it those who lack them, if they have gotten in, seem to have brought to light a rather surprising state of affairs. It was found some little time ago that at the March examination for consular eligible lists, there would not be candidates enough to fill all the positions, even if they all passed the examination. The requirements that seem to have kept out more candidates than any other are the requirements of ability to speak at least one other language than English.

This merely accentuates what has long been known, that Americans and the English—in fact English speaking people generally—are among the least facile in acquiring other languages than their mother tongue. This has been charged by some to the insularity of England and the self-sufficient isolation of America for so many years.

It is probably due to a deeper cause than that, a race characteristic instead of accidental conditions, and that the accidental conditions themselves are a result of the race characteristic. But whatever the cause, it is a fact that the English speaking race does not readily acquire new languages—not that it hasn't the ability, but that it hasn't the will. The history of colonization everywhere has been that the English speaking colonizer haughtily refused to learn the language of the aborigine he displaced, but compelled the latter to learn his language, or perish. Of course this is true in its larger aspect of all colonizing and conquering races. But it is especially true of the English speaking race. The French and the Spanish colonist has shown a more complaisant personal disposition than the English, and has usually learned the language of the aborigine as a mere matter

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of convenience. But the Englishman, as a rule, has compelled the aborigine to learn his language whatever the inconvenience.

It seems very likely that in this may be found one of the reasons why the English has become such a world language. The rough, unapologetic insistence of the race that those who deal with him shall deal with him in his own language, has had a compelling, a conquering effect that has spread the language as nothing else could or would.

Conquered and servient races, as a rule show greater facility in acquiring language than any other. The Poles are generally reckoned the readiest linguists in the world. But they lost their freedom and their nationality long ago, and were even unable to display such spirit of nationality as would warrant the Great Napoleon, who was very anxious to, for his own purposes, in re-establishing the Polish crown.

The Armenians, who have been vassals to every conquering horde which has swept over their land, are looked on as the linguists of Asia minor.

There is something more in this sturdy refusal of the Anglo-Saxon to readily learn other languages than his own, than the mere accident of insularity in England, or isolation in America.

A half a million a year for European immigration ought to effect a great change toward rolling back the tide of orientalization in these islands.

A liberal appropriation for promotion work would be one of the best appropriations the legislature could make.

In the circuit court a man indicted for arson entered a plea of guilty. Then a lawyer was appointed for him, and he was given leave to withdraw his plea of guilty, and plead not guilty. Probably the lawyer discovered that the man was mistaken; that he didn't

set fire to the ship as he thought he had.

The San Francisco baseball team were to have played the New Yorkers last Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The local followers of the game are wondering whether Barney Joy pitched in any of these games.

Here are Schmitts and Ruef indicted for selling franchises. Did anyone suppose they gave them away?

All's well that ends well. So since Paul Isenberg is finally on the Board of Agriculture and Forestry, we may

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